



Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting

A hand wearing a red glove holds a yellow spray bottle, spraying a fine mist. The background is a solid green color.

Medical experts believe that COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) may remain contagious on surfaces of all materials for several hours to several days. Cleaning and disinfecting dirty surfaces is the best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses in the majority of settings and at home.

Cleaning is the removal of dirt and germs from surfaces. However, cleaning does not get rid of all germs.

Disinfecting works by using chemicals to kill the majority of germs on surfaces. Killing germs on surfaces reduces the risk of spreading COVID-19 or other infections.

SURFACES

- If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water, prior to disinfecting
- Disinfect all “high-touch” surfaces every day, such as counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, and bedside tables
- Clean and disinfect any surfaces that may have blood, stool, or body fluids on them

EPA-REGISTERED DISINFECTANTS

Refer to EPA website for EPA-registered disinfectants that have qualified under EPA’s emerging viral pathogens program for use against SARS-CoV-2 at <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

LAUNDRY

- Do not shake dirty laundry. Shaking laundry could further spread the virus
- Immediately remove and wash clothes or bedding that have blood, stool, or body fluids on them
- Wear disposable gloves while handling soiled items and keep soiled items away from your body. Clean hands (with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer) immediately after removing gloves
- If possible, wash items with the warmest water setting and dry all items completely
- Disinfect items used to carry laundry

Place all used gloves, facemasks, and other contaminated items in a lined container before throwing away with other waste. Clean your hands (with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer) immediately after handling these items. If hands are visibly dirty use soap and water.

OCEE 03/12/2020

For additional workplace guidance visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov and the World Health Organization: www.who.int